

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephone conference on January 5, 2005.

Referring to the Office Action, it is noted that the Examiner has objected to claims 20-21. Applicant has cancelled such claims and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also objected to all of the claims as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, in claims 1, 12 and 19, the Examiner has indicated that it is unclear if applicant intends to claim the combination of the furniture glide and furniture leg or the subcombination (just the furniture glide). Applicant has amended claims 1, 12 and 19 in order to more specifically define the invention for which protection is sought, namely, the subcombination of the furniture glide. Further, the Examiner has indicated that phrase "as to overlap and at least partially close an upper end of the cavity...the furniture leg received in the cavity" is not fully understood. Applicant has amended claim 19 to clarify such language. In view of such amendments, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 5-8, 12, 14, 16-17 and 19, 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Pratt et al., U.S. Patent No. 710,073, in view of Anson, U.S. Patent No. 2,731,056. As hereinafter described, applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the invention for which protection is sought. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claim 1 defines a furniture glide removably mountable in the terminal end of the furniture leg having an outer surface. The furniture leg includes a base having a generally arcuate lower surface for engaging a supporting surface. The sleeve extends from the base along an axis and has an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the furniture leg. The sleeve terminates on the upper edge. As best seen in Figs. 5-7 and 15-17, a plurality of flexible, resilient projections extend radially inwardly from the upper edge of the sleeve so as to define an upper limit of the cavity defined by the sleeve. Each resilient projection has an upper surface and lower surface. The plurality of resilient projections are removable between a first position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections lie in a generally common plane and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received in the cavity of the sleeve. In addition, with the resilient projections in the second position, the resilient projections retain the furniture leg received in the cavity and space the furniture leg received in the cavity from the inner surface of the sleeve so as to allow the furniture leg to be supported within the cavity at an acute angle. As hereinafter described, none of the cited references show or suggest a furniture glide having a plurality of resilient projections that are movable between a first position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections lie in a generally common plane and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received in the cavity of the sleeve.

The Pratt et al. '073 patent is directed to an elastic tip for crutches, canes, chairs and the like. The elastic tip includes a plurality of ridges along the inner surface thereof to maintain and to center the tip on an object. However, unlike the structure of the furniture glide of claim 1, flexible, resilient projections do not extend radially inward from the end of the sleeve. Further,

nothing in the Pratt et al., '073 patent shows or suggests resilient projections movable between a first position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections lie in a common plane and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received within the cavity of the sleeve.

The Anson '056 patent cannot cure the deficiencies of the '073 reference. The Anson '056 patent discloses a molded article receivable on the bottom portion of a glass. The Examiner suggested that the Anson '056 patent teaches the general concept of inner projections at the upper limit or edge of a cavity as provided for in the claims. However, the Anson '056 patent does not show or suggest projections that have upper and lower surfaces or that are movable between a first position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections lie in a generally common plane and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received in the cavity of the sleeve. Such an element is entirely absent from the '056 patent. Hence, applicant believes that independent claim 1 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

It is noted that during the telephone conference of January 5, 2006 with the Examiner, the Examiner referred to Bedford, U.S. Patent No. 2,950,937 as possibly being relevant to the claims of the present application. The Bedford '937 patent discloses a fastening device for interconnecting first and second cylindrical bodies and an end-to-end relationship. The fastener device includes a tubular body portion, a series of outwardly extending spring tongs integral with the body at one end and a second series of integrally extending tongs integral with the body of the opposite end. As best seen in Figs. 1 and 3 of the '937 patent, the inwardly extending tongs are at an acute angle to the inner surface of the body portion. A stud member may be inserted into the circle thereby causing the inwardly extending tongs to exert a pressure through their corresponding edges on the stud member.

Given the fact that it is preferred to construct the fastening device in the '937 patent from steel (see, Col. 2, lines 16-19 of the '937 patent), is constructed for steel, the flexibility and resiliency of the tongs are minimal. As such, unlike the furniture glide of claim 1 wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections lie in the generally common plane with the projections in the first position, the tongs disclosed in the '937 patent are at an acute angle to the inner surface of the tubular body. If the tongs were positionable such that the upper surfaces thereof lied in a common plane, it would be difficult to insert the stud member into the fastener. Further, if the stud member was inserted into the fastener, the tongs would no longer be "movable" between the first and second positions due to the lack of flexibility of the steel. As such, any such modification to the fastener of the '937 patent would render the fastener inoperative for its intended purpose. In addition, unlike the furniture glide of claim 1 wherein the upper surfaces of the resilient projections are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received in the cavity of the sleeve, the Bedford '937 patent contemplates only the edges of the tongs engaged the wall of the stud member (see, Fig. 4). Hence, for the reasons noted above, it is believed that independent claim 1 defines a furniture glide not shown or suggested in the '937 patent.

Claims 2 and 5-8 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further define a furniture glide not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 2 and 5-8 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 12 defines a furniture glide removably mountable on a terminal end of a furniture leg having an outer surface. The furniture glide includes a base having a generally arcuate lower surface engageable with the supporting surface and an arcuate inner surface engageable with the terminal end of the furniture leg. A sleeve extends along an axis from the base and has an upper edge and an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the furniture leg. The sleeve includes a

leg engagement element having a plurality of flexible projections. Each projection has an upper surface and a lower surface and projects from the upper edge of the sleeve. The projections are movable between the first position wherein the upper surfaces of the projections are generally coplanar with the upper edge of the sleeve and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the projections are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received from the cavity.

As heretofore described, neither of the cited references, the Pratt '073 patent and Anson '076 patent, show or suggest a furniture glide wherein the projections are movable between a first position wherein the upper surfaces of the projections are generally coplanar with the upper edge of the sleeve and a second position wherein the upper surface of sleeve are engageable with the outer surface of the furniture leg with the furniture leg received within the cavity. Further, the Bedford '937 patent does not overcome the limitations of the cited references. As noted above, nothing in the '937 patent shows or suggests flexible projections that are movable between a first position wherein the projections lie in a common plane with the upper edge of the sleeve and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the projections are engageable with the outer surface of a furniture leg with the furniture leg received within the cavity. As such, it is believed that independent claim 12 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Claims 14 and 16-17 depend from claim 12 and further define a furniture glide not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 14 and 16-17 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Referring to claim 19, a furniture glide is provided that is removably mountable on a terminal end of a furniture leg having an outer surface. The furniture glide includes a slider having a lower surface for engaging a supporting surface and an inner surface for engagement with the terminal end of the furniture leg. A leg connection member is interconnected to the slider for retaining the furniture glide on the furniture leg. The leg connection member includes a

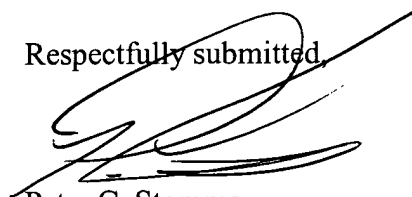
generally tubular sleeve extending along an axis and terminating at an upper edge. The tubular sleeve has an inner surface defining a cavity. A plurality of flexible projections project from the upper surface of the sleeve. The projections have upper and lower surfaces and are movable between a first position wherein the projections lie in a generally common plane with the upper edge of the sleeve and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the projections are engageable with the furniture leg received in the cavity such that the projections are urged into the cavity by the furniture legs and such that the furniture leg is spaced by the projections from the inner surface of the sleeve.

As heretofore described with respect to claims 1 and 12, nothing in the cited references shows or suggests a furniture glide that incorporates a plurality of flexible projections that project from the upper edge of a sleeve. Further, nothing in the cited Pratt '073 patent or Anson '056 patent shows or suggests the projections being movable between a first position wherein the projections lie in a generally common plane with the upper edge of the sleeve and a second position wherein the upper surface of the projections are engageable with the furniture leg received in the cavity. As defined in independent claim 19, the projections are entirely absent from the cited references. Similarly, as previously discussed with respect to claims 1 and 12, the '937 patent does not show or suggest flexible projections that are movable between a first position wherein the projections lie in a generally common plane with the upper edge of the sleeve and a second position wherein the upper surfaces of the projections are engageable with the furniture leg received within the cavity. Consequently, it is believed that independent claim 19 defines over the cited references and is in proper form for allowance. Claims 22-23 depend from independent claim 19 and further define a furniture glide not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 22-23 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

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Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-2, 5-8, 12, 14, 16-17, 19 and 22-23 is in proper form for allowance action is earnestly solicited. The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this or any other communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully submitted,



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